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## **Sen. Gilbert encouraged by governor's commitment to GOP vision of job creation and economic growth**

**Lansing** – Sen. Jud Gilbert (R-Algonac) said he was encouraged to hear Gov. Jennifer Granholm's commitment to work with Republicans on creating jobs and spurring Michigan's economy during her State of the State Address Tuesday night.

"We definitely need to work together in a bipartisan fashion if we're going to accomplish real change on issues like job growth, education, and health care," Gilbert said. "We all want to see these issues addressed, the question will be -- can we agree on how to go about it?"

Senate Republicans renewed their pledge to fight for every Michigan job and said they stand ready to work with the governor to accomplish what is right for the people of Michigan.

While the nation's economic recovery is well underway, families in Michigan are still too often facing the prospect of an unemployment check instead of a regular paycheck. In 2003, Michigan's jobless rate hit a 10-year high.

The GOP vision for Michigan includes providing a job opportunity for anyone who wants to work and support their family. It includes a great education for every student, affordable health care for families and senior citizens, and an opportunity for every Michigan resident to choose their own path in life.

"We must create Michigan's future, not just plan for it," said Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema. "It's time to create jobs, it's time to help our economy grow – it's time to take action."

Sen. Gilbert agreed, citing the example from this past fall when the Republican-led Legislature took action on its JOBS package – Job Opportunities for Business Success. Each point of the JOBS package complements the others to jumpstart Michigan's weak job market and get Michigan's residents back to work.

The Senate has sent seven of nine initiatives from the JOBS package on their way to the governor. Work is already underway on the remaining initiatives as well as JOBS: Phase II.

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“We’re pleased that the governor is talking about many of the initiatives that legislative Republicans have been advocating for years,” Gilbert said. “While I was surprised when a couple of our bills in the JOBS package were vetoed, it appears that we can find common ground.”

Sen. Gilbert said some of the governor’s proposals outlined in her speech have merit, but he needs to see the details instead of just a general idea.

“With our state facing a deficit of more \$900 million this year, we need to consider the costs of each new initiative more closely than ever,” he said.

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